

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET - SENSITIVE

October 27, 1962

NSC Executive Committee Record of Action, October 27, 1962, 10:00 AM
Meeting No. 7

NSC REVIEW
COMPLETED
, 7/2/03.

1. Director McCone presented the intelligence briefing, highlighting the information in the first two pages of the CIA Cuba Crisis Memorandum.
2. Secretary McNamara reported on the positions of Soviet Bloc ships moving toward Cuba. He recommended, and the President approved, two daylight reconnaissance missions over Cuba today -- one in the morning and one this afternoon. He again recommended that a reconnaissance mission be undertaken tonight. In response to Secretary Rusk's request for delay of this mission, the President said the reconnaissance planes should go on alert, that an announcement of the mission should be drawn up, and that a final decision would be taken this afternoon.
3. It was agreed that the Russians would be informed of the extent of our quarantine zone area privately. Khrushchev could then decide whether to turn back the Soviet tanker Graznyy, which will be entering the quarantine zone late today. If the Graznyy continued, a decision could then be made as to whether it would be allowed to proceed to Havana or whether it should be stopped, searched, and released, if, as expected, it had on board no prohibitive material. A decision would also be required as to what action should be taken if the tanker refused to submit to search.
4. At this point in the meeting the partial text of the Soviet public statement was received. It became clear that the terms of the public statement varied considerably from the proposals made by Khrushchev in his personal letter to the President last night. The President approved the release of the attached public statement, which was drafted during the meeting. A second and longer statement was to be prepared. (This was later abandoned.)
5. A draft message to Khrushchev was discussed and a final version will be completed for transmission this afternoon.
6. Copies of a proposed leaflet to be dropped in Cuba was circulated at the meeting, but a decision to drop them was deferred.

(EXECUTIVE SECRETARY FILE

*NSC Comm. Record
of Action*

McGeorge Bundy
McGeorge Bundy

TOP SECRET - SENSITIVE

#188118

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 27, 1962

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

Several inconsistent and conflicting proposals have been made by the USSR within the last twenty-four hours, including the one just made public in Moscow. The proposal broadcast this morning involves the security of nations outside the Western Hemisphere. But it is the Western Hemisphere countries and they alone that are subject to the threat that has produced the current crisis -- the action of the Soviet Government in secretly introducing offensive weapons into Cuba. Work on these offensive weapons is still proceeding at a rapid pace. The first imperative must be to deal with this immediate threat, under which no sensible negotiation can proceed.

It is therefore the position of the United States that as an urgent preliminary to consideration of any proposals work on the Cuban bases must stop; offensive weapons must be rendered inoperable; and further shipment of offensive weapons to Cuba must cease -- all under effective international verification.

As to proposals concerning the security of nations outside this Hemisphere, the United States and its allies have long taken the lead in seeking properly inspected arms limitation, on both sides. These efforts can continue as soon as the present Soviet-created threat is ended.

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

Mr. Knoche
NSC Executive Committee
meeting minutes for
Nov 7-10.

[Signature]
10/30/62

(DATE)

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